

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed January 12, 2009.

I. Summary of Examiner's Rejections

In the Office Action mailed January 12, 2009, Claims 10 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 10, 13, 15-20, 22-26, 29, 31, 34 and 38-39 were rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prompt et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0034733, hereafter Prompt) in view of Hotti et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,970,876, hereafter Hotti).

II. Summary of Applicants' Amendments

The present Reply amends Claim 10, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration Claims 10, 15-26, 29, 31, and 36-39. Reconsideration of the Application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

In the Office Action mailed January 12, 2009, Claims 10 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Accordingly, Claim 10 has been amended as shown above. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 10 and 15-18 now conform to the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101 and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action mailed January 12, 2009, Claims 10, 15-20, 22-26, 29, 31, 34 and 38-39 were rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prompt (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0034733) in view of Hotti (U.S. Patent No. 6,970,876).

Claims 10, 19, 29, and 31

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 10, 19, 29, and 31 in view of the following remarks.

Prompt discloses that, although a search by attribute in a flat directory structure by convention works well, a search by relationship typically is problematic for the reasons already described. (Paragraph [0109]). As further disclosed therein, one aspect of the [] invention involves mapping relationships that have already been defined within existing databases into a

centralized set of hierarchical access paths that permit search and navigation. As such, the virtual directories described herein provide an alternative to large-scale data extraction and aggregation that supports both the search and browse usage models. (Paragraph [0109]).

Hotti discloses management of distributed databases, and a method and arrangement associated with managing database schemas and configuration of software that uses those schemas. (Abstract). Application master database node 202 and replica database nodes 212, 222 form a distributed system, wherein the application replica database nodes can maintain a full or partial copy (replica) of the application master database servers' data. (Fig. 2A; Column 6, lines 6-10). Hotti also discloses a hierarchic system where several database systems a, b, c have their respective schema management nodes, 931a, 931b and 931c which manage the schemas of the respective database nodes. (Column 9, lines 18-21). The database systems have a common configuration management node 931 for managing schemas and application configuration of all database systems a, b and c. The configuration management nodes 931a, 931b and 931c of the individual database systems are thus replicas of the main configuration node 931. (Column 9, lines 18-27; Fig. 9).

Applicant respectfully submits that, based on the above description, Prompt appears to disclose search and navigation operations including relational and attribute searching; while Hotti appears to disclose managing schemas in a distributed system. However, as currently presented, each of Claims 10, 19, 29, and 31 defines that the API enables navigation of the plurality of content repositories and enables create, read, update, and delete (CRUD) operations to be performed on the plurality of content repositories. Applicant respectfully submits that neither Prompt nor Hotti, when considered alone or in combination, appear to disclose or render obvious this feature.

Furthermore, as currently presented, each of Claims 10, 19, 29, and 31 defines creating a hierarchy node for different types of content available in the plurality of content repositories. In the Office Action it was asserted that Hotti discloses such a feature. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Hotti merely appears to disclose multiple database systems which are replicas of a master database system. Thus, in Hotti, each of the multiple database systems appears to not only have the same type of content, but the exact same content. Hotti does not appear to disclose creating a hierarchy node for different types of content. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Prompt, in view of Hotti, does not appear to disclose or render obvious creating a hierarchy node for different types of content, as presently defined by Claims 10, 19, 29, and 31.

In view of the above comments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 10, 19, 29, and 31 are neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-18, 20-26, and 36-39

Claims 15-18, 20-26, and 36-39 depend from and include all of the features of Claims 10, 19, or 31. Claims 15-18, 20-26, and 36-39 have not been addressed separately but it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim, and further in view of the comments provided above. Reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this reply, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /Nathan L. Feld/
Nathan L. Feld
Reg. No. 59,725

Customer No. 80548
FLIESLER MEYER LLP
650 California Street, 14th Floor
San Francisco, California 94108
Telephone: (415) 362-3800